

acute diseases, he selected typhoid fever as the basis, described it with great accuracy and then compared the phenomena presented by this disease with those peculiar to other acute affections. By this method of investigation the reader enjoys the advantage of studying the history of all acute diseases in a single work of the most condensed form, at the same time that he can thoroughly learn the characteristic symptoms of the principal malady.

But those who will read this translation of Dr. Louis's work must remember that it must be carefully and laboriously studied, it cannot be carelessly read. It is too full of facts and written in too concise a style for superficial examination, and he who would dismiss it hastily may be assured that he will often totally mistake the strict meaning of the author.

Some confusion will arise in the minds of many readers from the title of the work. Dr. Louis merely gives the numerous designations applied to one disease in order to show that he is indifferent or nearly indifferent to the name. But we must carefully distinguish the nervous fever or typhus mitior of the French from the typhus fever of the English writers. The two diseases differ materially, and though readily distinguished in well defined cases are often confounded with each other. For a more complete account of the distinction between them, we may take the liberty of referring the reader to the *American Journal* for February 1837.

Dr. Bowditch has published in the appendix to the first volume some interesting observations on the mucous membranes of the alimentary canal. We hope he will continue his inquiries, which will probably lead to interesting results. His observations fully confirm the opinion of Dr. Carswell which refers the softening of the great tuberosity of the stomach to the action of the acid contents of this organ upon its coats.

W. W. G.

ART. XV. *A Treatise on the Functional and Organic Diseases of the Uterus.*

From the French of F. DUPARQUE, Docteur en Médecine de la Faculté et ancien interne des Hôpitaux et Hospices Civils de Paris, &c. Translated, with notes, by JOSEPH WARRINGTON, M. D. Philadelphia: Desilver, Thomas & Co., 1837. 8vo. pp. 455.

The work of Dr. Duparcque, like most modern French monographs, is highly elaborate; we may add, not entirely exempt from the great faults of French writers, unnecessary extension, tedious detail, and long and useless illustrations. That it possesses, however, great merit, may be inferred from the fact that it obtained the prize proposed by the Medical Society of Bordeaux for the best treatise on the subjects which it embraces.

It is divided into *two parts*. The first contains a general pathological view of the organic diseases of the uterus, their causes, mode of formation, development, termination, and the means of discovering them.

After a brief notice of the physiological action of the uterus, the author enters into a consideration of the various causes of common occurrence which interrupt its proper physiological actions and otherwise produce an abnormal condition. His remarks appear in the main to be just, and many of them original. The various points advanced in these discussions are illustrated by well described cases.

The *second part* is on particular organic alterations of the uterus, as simple engorgement, sanguine engorgement or congestion, hard engorgement, scirrhous inflammation, simple ulceration, and confirmed cancer. All these conditions are described, and their causes, mode of formation and terminations, properly explained. According to the observations of the author they may

follow each other consecutively; and hence he insists, with proper emphasis, on the importance of removing the first manifestations of disease, and of avoiding the various exciting causes of congestion and inflammation as the only sure method of avoiding cancer: or, in other words, he maintains that cancers very commonly result from the neglect of proper remedial means while in their simple or primary state. Like the first part of the work, the second is also enriched with numerous cases illustrative of the views of the author.

Of the translation we have little to say. The task of translating the *ideas* of an author into a different language from that in which they are written, is always laborious, and often profitless to him who undertakes it; and hence we feel grateful to those who furnish us with a valuable foreign author in an English dress. In the present instance, the meaning of the author, generally speaking, is rendered with tolerable clearness. That the translation abounds too much in Gallicisms, is undeniable. Sometimes, indeed, it is too literal to be altogether intelligible. These, perhaps, are the unavoidable errors of a young writer in his first essay. But errors in grammar ought undoubtedly to be guarded against, such as the use of the relative *which* instead of *who*, when applied to persons; *became* for *become*, and the *substantive* form of the noun in place of the *adjective* derived from it, as *scirrhus* for *scirrhus*, and vice versa. The table of "*Errata*," which contains two examples, might have been very profitably extended from the typographical errors which occur throughout the work. As the book, however, is a truly valuable one, we hope it will soon reach a second edition, in which, no doubt, the translator will be careful to correct the errors to which we have adverted.

R. M. H.

ART. XVI. *Mémoire sur les rapports des sexes dans les naissances de l'espèce humaine*; Par Ch. GIROU DE BUZAREINGUES, Correspondant de l'Académie royale des sciences. Paris, 1836.

*Memoir on the proportion of the sexes at birth in the human species.* By Ch. Girou de Buzareingues, &c. &c. Paris, 1836.

In the year 1823, the author of the memoir above mentioned, read before the Royal Academy of Sciences of France an essay upon Generation, in which he set forth the following views in relation to the difference in the proportions of the sexes at birth in the human species.

The male sex is the result of the predominance of the motive power (*force motrice*) of the animal economy. In France, the variations in the proportions of the sexes at birth, maintain a relation with the proportion of ease to labour,—abundance to want,—refinement to rusticity,—manufacturing pursuits or of those which chiefly call for the exertion of the intellectual faculties to rural occupations or to those which demand the exertion of physical force,—libertine and dissolute manners to those of strictness and austerity,—the influence exerted by city life compared with that of the country, or, in a word, of the sensitive to the physical power.

In the treatise upon Generation, from which these conclusions are drawn, the author specially designates the influences exerted by the relative conditions of the parents as to age, health, temperament and strength, both physical and moral, together with various other considerations connected with the employments of industry, as influencing one or the other sex.

In his subsequent publications upon the same subjects, the author has substituted for the expression sensitive force or power, used in opposition to motive power, the term nutritive power, as more particularly characterizing the female sex. In the present memoir which was communicated to the Royal